(a) whether Government has invited proposals from consultants of repute to evaluate its prison modernization scheme throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the conditions of jails/prisons in the country is pathetic and overcrowding has created mess in jails; and

(d) if so, the plans of Government to modernize the jails in the next few years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) with a view to evaluate the scheme of Modernization of Prisons started by the Central Government in 2002-03 through an independent agency, proposals from reputed firms were invited. Three firms have been shortlisted at the prequalification stage. On the basis of evaluation of financial and technical proposals submitted by these firms, the work will be awarded to one of these companies. A Committee under the chairmanship of Additional Secretary (CS), Ministry of Home Affairs has been constituted to evaluated the proposals.

(c) As per the data compiled by the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB), the total number of prisoners in the country at the end of 2006 were 3,73,271 against the authorized capacity of 2,63,911. So there extent of 41.4%. This does put an extra burden on the available facilities in the jails.

(d) The scheme of modernization of prisons initiated in 2002-03 with a total outlay of Rs. 1800 crore shall come to an end by 31.3.2009. However, considering the demands of various States for granting further financial assistance for prison infrastructure and correctional administration, the Ministry of Home Affairs has initiated the process of formulating second phase of the scheme of modernization of prisons. Necessary steps are being taken in this regard in consultation with the Ministry of Finance. Apart from other components being proposed in the second phase, the emphasis is laid on construction on new jails/additional barracks so as to address the problem of over crowding.

Proposal to ban on IM

†983. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has made up its mind to put ban on the organization known as 'Indian Mujaheedin';

(b) if so, whether State Governments have been asked to get strong proof against the said organization;

(c) if so, the names of States which have submitted details in this regard till now;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) whether State Governments have sent information about the organization of SIMI also; and

(e) if so, the names of State Governments which have sent information in this regard and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) The name of Indian Mujaheedin has come to notice through e-mails, etc., sent to media houses in the context of certain incidents of bomb blasts in various cities, claiming responsibility for the same. Investigations into such cases are underway which, *inter-alia*, are also expected to throw more light about the so-called 'Indian Mujaheedin' and its members, etc.

(d) and (e) SIMI has been declared an unlawful organization based on information received from various States, *viz.*, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and the NCT of Delhi, and other agencies. This matter is presently sub judice in the Supreme Court.

Status of work along Indo-Bangladesh Border

984. KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of work of Indo-Bangladesh Border fencing, flood light arrangement, protection of riverine border and handling of disputed area for fencing;

(b) the time period by when the entire work of erecting barbed wire, fencing, flood light arrangement will be completed including construction of bridges, sluice gate, culvert; and

(c) the details of action taken in regards to proposal forwarded by Government of Assam to update the National Register of Citizens in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) and (b) The status of various works along Indo-Bangladesh Border as on 31.10.2008 is as follows:-

Fencing	—	2631	Km.
Road	—	3313	Km.
Bridges	—	23051	Mtr.
Floodlight	—	277	Km.

The balance work along feasible stretches is scheduled to be completed by March, 2010 except floodlighting work which is scheduled to be completed by 2011-12. The reverine border is being protected by way of patrolling through floating BOPs, speed boats and engine fitted country boats. The construction of fencing within 150 yards from zero line is being objected by Govt. of Bangladesh. This matter has been taken with Government of Bangladesh for and early decision.